

**TALKING POINTS FOR
OUTREACH REPRESENTATIVES
CITIZEN SUMMIT III:
REAL CHALLENGES. REAL CHOICES**

- Citizen Summit III is an opportunity for the public to shape the future of the District of Columbia. It is America's largest ongoing town hall meeting, a time when residents and government officials engage in extensive dialogue on crucial public issues.
- This year's Citizen Summit is scheduled for November 1 at the new Washington Convention Center. You can register at www.citizensummit.dc.gov or by calling 727-0882. Mayor Williams has invited all District residents to participate.
- The District's "Citywide Strategic Plan" is currently in draft form. Input from Citizen Summit III will help shape the final version of the plan, which sets budget priorities for coming years. Citizen input will help shape the city's future.
- The Summit also provides an opportunity for residents to build a new, 20-year vision for the city's future. The vision will become the District's Comprehensive Plan. This document contains official policies and future direction on topics such as affordable housing, land use, transportation, parks, and economic development.
- Our goal at the Summit is have a conversation between the District government and residents about our plans for the coming years. The Summit continues our tradition of using a town hall meeting to make decisions on public issues.

- For the District government, the Summit is a chance to be sure we've heard the public's voice accurately.
- The Citizen Summit has accomplished many things in the past few years:
 - It created the priorities for the Citywide Strategic Plan
 - In 1999, the first Citizen Summit persuaded Mayor Williams to add \$70 - \$80 million to the DCPS budget
 - It provided content for the "Strategic Neighborhood Action Plans" (SNAPs)
 - It helped define the city's housing policy and the city's voting representation efforts
- Citizen Summit III will help create a connection and a shared sense of responsibility between government and residents. We have challenges ahead of us. During a stagnant economy and a time of limited revenue growth, we need to make tough choices together.
- So what should change and what should remain the same? What would it take to make *your* neighborhood a better place? How can we improve our schools, reduce crime, and create more job opportunities for District residents?
 - What should our priorities be?
- The first two Citizen Summits made a real difference in the District government — and a real difference in your neighborhood. Let's come together once again to make real choices. Let's make a difference.